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SATURDAY MUSIC

AARON

SUNDAY MUSIC

CHASE RICE

English Beat Skablins Medicine Hat **Randy Woods**

Hallstrom **Jesse Taylor Marleys Ghost Low Down Drifters** Randy Woods

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FestivaloftheRiver.co

FRIDAY 7/22

_		-			
	MAIN STAGE	CHA CHA LOUNGE	NEUMOS	VERA STAGE	BARBOZA
4:00	The Dip			Dick Stusso	
4:30	тис Бір		Sebastian and the		Pale Noise
5:00			Deep Blue	Pillar Point	
5:30	Sango				Amy Viking
6:00		Heavy Petting	Echolarks	Iska Dhaaf	, ,
6:30	Emancipator	Merso			Astro King Phoenix
7:00	•	Wierso	Nail Polish	Mild High Club	
7:30		Into Violence		J	Sundog
8:00	MØ	into violence			
8:30			DoNormaal	Dilly Dally	Western War
9:00		Donzis			
9:30	Crystal Castles	Great Falls	Wild Powwers	Head Wound City	Mirror Ferrari
10:00		Great Falls			
10:30					
11:00	Washed Out		Zaalah V Vinn Cuale	DJDS	
11:30	Trasilea Gat		Zoolab X King Snake		
Midnight					JET
12:30					(till close)
1:00			ICT		
1:30			JET (till close)		
2:00					



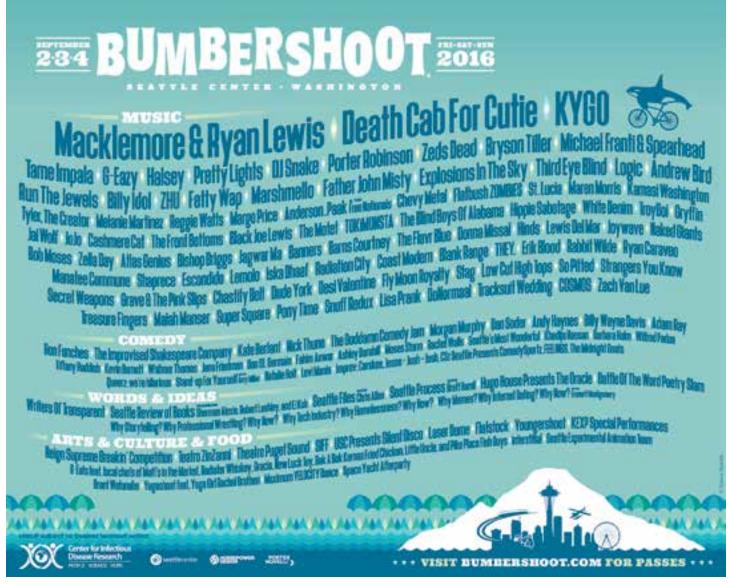


SATURDAY 7/23

		•			
	MAIN STAGE	CHA CHA LOUNGE	NEUMOS	VERA STAGE	BARBOZA
2:00			Erie	Prism Tats	
2:30	Porter Ray				
3:00			Down North	Tangerine	
3:30	Israel Nash				
4:00	israei ivasii	Lisa Prank	Tilson XOXO	Good Co.	Tape Stacks
4:30			TIISOIT AOAO		
5:00	Thunderpussy	Mommy Long Legs		Ultimate Painting	The Good Wives
5:30			Bardot		
6:00		Dude York			Screens
6:30	Car Seat Headrest			Woods	
7:00		Steal Shit Do Drugs	Duke Evers		JusMoni
				On An On	
7:30	Tourist	Boyfriends	Sego	On All Oll	Moon Dial
8:00		, i	Jego		
8:30		Acapulco Lips		Great Good Fine Ok	Scott Yoder
9:00	Big Wild		Grizzled Mighty		
9:30	Dig Wila				
10:00		Bread & Butter		Pure Bathing Culture	
10:30					
11:00	005574			MAND	Inferno (till close)
11:30	ODESZA		JET (till close)	WAND	(till close)
Midnight			(till close)		
		•		•	









SUNDAY 7/24

		•			
	MAIN STAGE	CHA CHA LOUNGE	NEUMOS	VERA STAGE	BARBOZA
2:00				Benjamin Francis Leftwich	
2:30			Fog Father	,	
3:00	TBD	Stallion		Cardiknox	SGF
			DoublePlusGood	Cardikilox	
3:30		Wolfgang Fuck			Jamie Aaron Aux
4:00	Clams Casino	Wongang rack	The Chiden Found	Oh Pep!	Janne Haron Hax
4:30		21 - 11	The Spider Ferns		
5:00		Big Trughk		SassyBlack	Colorworks
5:30	Joy Formidable		The Ramblin' Years	Sussy Black	
		Sashay			VHS
6:00				Laura Gibson	
6:30	GoldLink	CHARMS	Nu Era		J GRGRY
7:00		CHARIVIS			JUNUNI
7:30				Discribe Descri	
8:00		Bad Future	NAVVI	Phoebe Ryan	
	STRFKR		IVAVVI		SPG & The Vices
8:30		Absolute Monarchs			
9:00		Absolute Monarchs	Manatee Commune	Cave Singers	
9:30				Cave Singers	
10:00	Chvrches		Wampire		
10:30	Cilvidies				
11:00					
11:30			Tennyson		
Midnight			lennyson		
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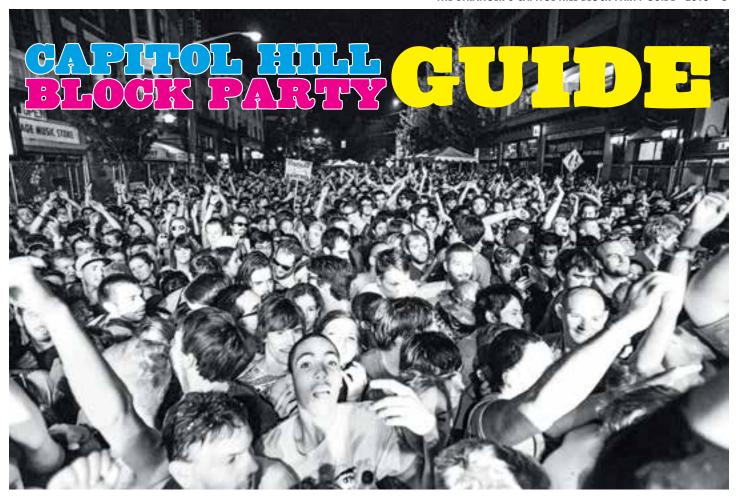












wenty years ago, Capitol Hill Block Party was a one-day music event featuring just a single stage. This year, the now iconic Capitol Hill festival will take over six blocks of the Pike/Pine corridor for three days of local and national artists on five separate stages.

If you've never been, or even if you have, it can be a lot to take in. But don't worry: The following pages have the complete schedule and details about every band, every solo artist, every DJ, every pigeon, every squirrel.

And if you can't be bothered to read the whole thing (what is this, SCHOOL?), look for our top picks throughout the guide: Car Seat Headrest, Nail Polish, DoNormaal, Steal Shit Do Drugs, Absolute Monarchs, Porter Ray, Wand, Ultimate Painting, Crystal Castles, SassyBlack, Head Wound City, Iska Dhaaf, and Clams Casino.

After you're done reading this guide, if you want even more information, you can find audio and video clips and photos for every single artist mentioned on the following pages (plus all of the information in this guide) at **strangerthingstodo.com**. For information about tickets, food vendors, and other logistics, see capitolhillblockparty.com.

THE BANDS

ABSOLUTE MONARCHS

(Sun, Cha Cha Lounge, 8:45 pm) Seattle has a long history of underground rock music, and the now defunct post-punk and sludge hybrid outfit Absolute Monarchs were one of the most heavy, idiosyncratic, and sardonic bands of the Northwest. The Seattle four-piece hinted at elements of other bands—Chavez's guitar jangle and riffs, Torche's doom pop, the Intelligence's fractured skronk, and Jawbox's proletariat post-hardcore. But despite these reference points, Absolute Monarchs didn't really sound like anyone. The disparate bits and pieces they borrowed came together to create something unusual, something foreign. They recently reuinted to celebrate their label, Good to Die Records' fifth anniversary. BRIAN COOK

* ACAPULCO LIPS

(Sat, Cha Cha Lounge, 8:45 pm) Seattle's Acapulco Lips dropped their self-titled debut LP on the new Killroom Records in April. It's a vibrant, hook-heavy fusion of garage- and surf-rock that's sweetened by bassist/singer

Our family motto means without fear.

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DON'T MISS THIS BAND CAR SEAT HEADREST

Maria-Elena Juarez's alluringly defiant vocals. DAVE SEGAL

Sat, Main Stage, 6 pm

AMY VIKING

(Fri, Barboza, 5:30 pm) Surfrock excitables Amy Viking give it an earnest go with layered harmonizing and bedroomdemo-level honesty, with a legitimately summery after-taste.

* ASTRO KING PHOENIX

(Fri, Barboza, 6:30 pm) Don't let the overboard alias fool you: With woozily digitized beats (often produced by OG bass-head OCnotes) and an elastic, rapidfire flow, Phoenix is an intriguing new star in the expanding universe of Seattle rap, somewhere between Porter Ray's poetic introspection and Key Nyata's left-field street tales. KYLE FLECK

***** BAD FUTURE

(Sun, Cha Cha Lounge, 7:45 pm) Bad Future remind me of "matured" mid-'80s hardcore bands—they're still angry and fast, but melodic. MIKE NIPPER

★ BARDOT

(Sat, Neumos, 5:15 pm) Bardot features U.S.E vocalists Carly Nicklaus and Amanda Okonek, as well as Amy Rockwell (the Catch), Nouela Johnston (People Eating People), Eric Howk (the

Lashes), Michael Knight (Hand of the Hills), and Adrian Kolbo. Their first single, "Damelo," is an ebullient party jam that's not far off the strutting, glittery vibe of U.S.E in their midtempo mode. DAVE SEGAL

BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH

(Sun, Vera Stage, 2 pm) Benjamin Francis Leftwich not only has an incredible given name, but also the haunting vocals and delicate musicianship of a true UK blue-eyed-soul baby.

BIG TRUGHK

(Sun, Cha Cha Lounge, 4:45 pm) Local heavy hitters Big Trughk bring the overpowering sludge rock that won't make you feel like you came to party, but will make you feel like you worked damn hard to get there.

BIG WILD

(Sat, Main Stage, 9 pm)

Drawing inspiration from the unending founts of electronica and hiphop, Big Wild creates a style all his own: heavy on the percussive extras, light on the drop, and all about the afterglow.

BOYFRIENDS

(Sat, Cha Cha Lounge, 7:45 pm) Fancy-dancing Seattle foursome Boyfriends have the







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DON'T MISS THIS BAND

sunny charm of a sparser, more garage-y Vampire Weekend. **TODD HAMM**

Sat, Vera Stage, 11 pm

★ BREAD & BUTTER

WAND

(Sat, Cha Cha Lounge, 9:45 pm) Seattle foursome Bread & Butter's bio describes them as "specializing in blasted stoner pop jams—true to their name, plain and simple. These wastoids will make you feel like drinking plentiful Tecate and just forgetting about time." I agree with that statement—their track "Cool in the Water" is a total day-drinking jam for sunburns, bridge jumping, light denim, forgetting to go to work, and no problemo classic rock 'n' roll. **EMILY NOKES**

CARDIKNOX

(Sun, Vera Stage, 3 pm)

Electro-pop duo Cardiknox bring the shady nightclub overhang feelings with a surprisingly up-tempo backing for an all over Forever-21-employee-partysoundtrack vibe.

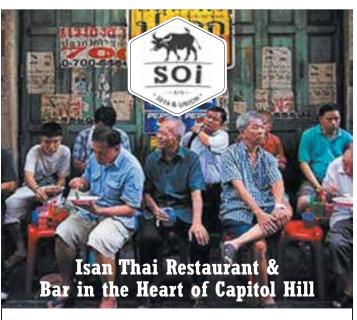
★ CAR SEAT HEADREST (Sat, Main Stage, 6 pm) It feels strange that the prolific, amazing Car Seat Headrest aren't a band you grew up with—although now that I see those words on the page, I realize that lots of people at Capitol Hill Block Party may well be in the process of doing that even now, so I'll just take my bifocals and lumbar discomfort and clear out of your way. Except to add that you're lucky. I remember when there were lots of bands that sounded like they were born when a Tascam cassette fourtrack machine got drunk and seduced a crate full of impeccable post-punk and college rock classix, but that form appears to be on the wane. Car Seat Headrest has smart, anxious quitar music in its cells, its bones, its DNA. SEAN NELSON

★ CAVE SINGERS

(Sun, Vera Stage, 9 pm)

Seattle's beloved Cave Singers are now five albums deep as of their latest disc. Banshee. Throughout their run, they've been able to tweak their style enough to separate themselves from the last decade's mega-folk





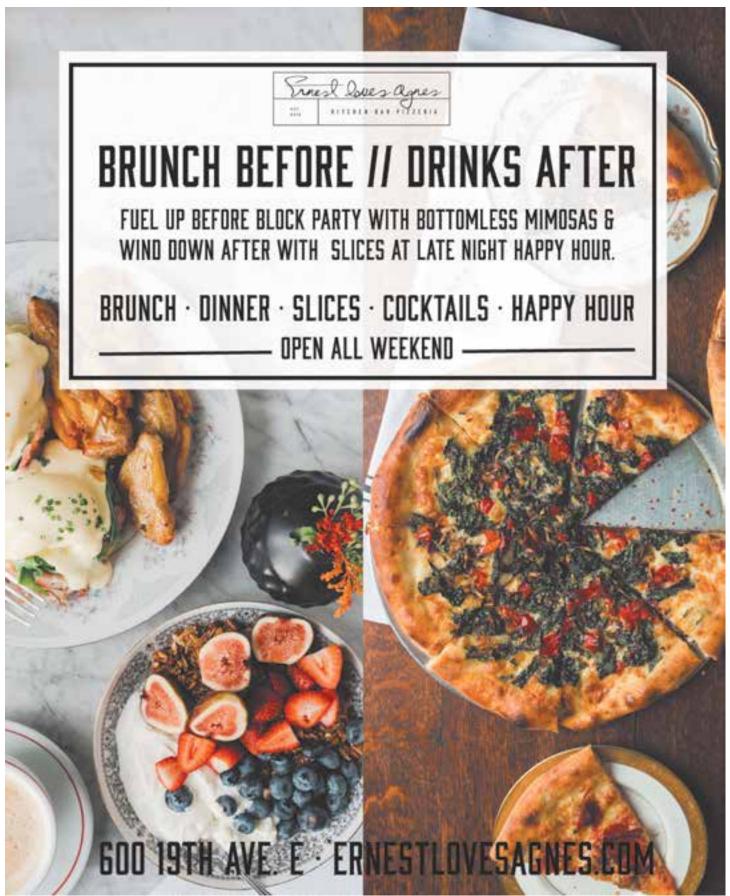
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wave. Naomi (2013) found them serving their formerly rough pastoral sounds sunny side up, and the band's two newest singles mark an even sharper departure. "Christmas Night" is a tambourine-laced romper and "That's Why" sounds a bit like Norman Greenbaum's chugging 1969 hit "Spirit in the Sky." TODD HAMM

★ CHARMS

(Sun, Cha Cha Lounge, 6:45 pm) A carnal bellowing was coming from the adjacent room of a subterranean Capitol Hill rehearsal space. The guitar, synths, and drums on the other side of the wall stirred a synth-punk cauldron of medicine-noise. I didn't know who or what it was, but it swallowed me whole, the way a swarm of ants eats a jungle. A voice sang, fervent and possessed. The drums played like they were carving a glyph on the ancient Mayan stone sarcophagus beneath the Temple of the Inscriptions pyramid in Palenque, Mexico. (It depicts Pakal sitting in a fucking spacecraft, yet it was carved in the year 685.) I was powerless to do anything but listen, so I turned the lights off and lay on the floor until their rehearsal was over. When they finished, I knocked on their door and discovered the band Charms. Surprisingly, they weren't covered in blood. TRENT **MOORMAN**

***** CHVRCHES

(Sun, Main Stage, 9:45 pm)

Chyrches sound like the ending credits to a bittersweet indieteen movie. I imagine the quirky main character going through dramatic, slice-of-life highs and lows, coming of age, and learning difficult lessons, only to emerge at the end stronger, altered, and with a better understanding of life and love. Maybe the ending is a little ambiguous, but now the skies are clear and she's ready to take on the world. And then the screen flashes to black and the Glasgow electro-pop band starts to play. Frontwoman Lauren

DON'T MISS THIS BAND



SASSYBLACK

Sun, Vera Stage, 5 pm

Mayberry's clear songbird voice delivers astutely emotional lyrics over sweeping, epic synths that simultaneously make your heart soar and ache. This is music for growing up, and for feeling feelings while you dance. ROBIN **EDWARDS**

★ CLAMS CASINO

(Sun, Main Stage, 3:45 pm)

The ascendant cloud-rap producer Clams Casino has laced melancholy, atmospheric cuts for Lil B, Main Attrakionz, Squadda B, the Jealous Guys, Deezy D, and Soulja Boy. DAVE SEGAL

COLORWORKS

(Sun, Barboza, 4:45 pm) Let the sweet citrusy psych pop vibes

of Colorworks wash over you, and then ignore everything else. The world is terrible; pop music doesn't have to be too.

★ CRYSTAL CASTLES

(Fri, Main Stage, 9:15 pm)

Toronto duo Crystal Castles (Alice Glass and Ethan Kath) are one of the few popular '00s electronic acts that are actually quite good. Their tracks typically alternate between dulcet, ethereal, melodic tunes and rambunctious synth-punk fuck-yous buttressed by end-of-their-tether bass lines. Crystal Castles are touring in support of their new slicker-thanexpected, expansive album, III, whose main theme is, Kath says,

"oppression," so get ready to party hard, Seattle. DAVE SEGAL

DICK STUSSO

(Fri, Vera Stage, 4 pm) Relative newcomer Dick Stusso is the inebriated mumbling uncle at your family reunion, but with a heart of gold. Barren floor recordings and thought processes soaked in homespun shame are this guy's bread and butter, and it works—especially for the tender pop-country-swing set.

DILLY DALLY

(Fri, Vera Stage, 8:15 pm) On their 2015 album Sore, Toronto's Dilly Dally create headlong, cranky rock songs that careen somewhere between early Hole and Jennifer Herrema's Black Bananas. DAVE SEGAL

★ THE DIP

(Fri, Main Stage, 4 pm) The Dip play real groovy and soulful head-bobbin' funk. They don't go boogie, heavy, or deep but keep enough of a steady simmer steaming to keep the dance floor uptight without wearing anyone out. MIKE NIPPER

DJDS

(Fri, Vera Stage, 10:45 pm) Selfproclaimed California vibe experts DJDS lay out their heart-of-EDMsoul-of-club-grit set, perfect for smoking a joint in the Griffith Park Observatory parking lot at sunset.

★ DONORMAAL

(Fri, Neumos, 8:15 pm) The local rapper of the moment creates a transporting sonic landscape. She's plumbing the depths of her own brain and the expanse of the cosmos on a voyage through purple nebulae and synapses. "I don't belieeeeeeeeeve what's in my miiiiiiiiiind," she moans on "50 Jasper Horses," the most haunting track on her excellent debut LP, Jump or Die. You'd be wise to follow DoNormaal wherever this journey is taking her. **ANGELA GARBES**

★ DONZIS

(Fri, Cha Cha Lounge, 8:45 pm)



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AM MAGIC GIANT AM ANYA MARINA

OCTOBER 6
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SAM FELDT & BAKERMAT

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OCTOBER 20
W. KAMAU BELL

SAT OCTOBER 22

BLIND PILOT

OCTOBER 27
THE NAKED AND FAMOUS

AMD XYLØ

FRI OCTOBER 28
THE SONICS

NOVEMBER 9 & 10
THE DESCENDENTS

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JOHN HODGMAN

GOLDROOM & AUTOGRAF

NOVEMBER 16
THE POSIES

SAT NOVEMBER 19
JESU & SUN KIL MOON

FRI NOVEMBER 25
RUFUS DU SOL

SAT NOVEMBER 26
CAR SEAT HEADREST

THE DOMESTICS

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DON'T MISS THIS BAND CLAMS CASINO Sun, Main Stage, 3:45 pm

Donzis are an "all fists up in the air" hesher band who appear always ready to get ANY kinda party started. MIKE NIPPER

DOUBLEPLUSGOOD

(Sun, Neumos, 3:15 pm) DoublePlusGood bring the PDX pop vibes of the electronic variety, with jacked-up dance mixes to share.

DOWN NORTH

(Sat, Neumos, 3 pm) Down North are alt punk soul with the heart of Charles Bradley and the swagger of James Brown, with plenty of hip shakes, heart breaks, and floor snakes to go around.

DUDE YORK

(Sat, Cha Cha Lounge, 5:45 pm) Seattle's supersmart, supercharged Dude York rock harder than Nicolas Cage and Sean Connery blowing up shit on Alcatraz. KATHLEEN TARRANT

DUKE EVERS

(Sat, Neumos, 6:30 pm) This

Seattle-based two-piece guitarand-drums band is... hey! Come back! Where are you going? Look, I know we spent the past 15 or so years drowning in bassless rock bands (thanks, Meg and Jack!), each one diluted from the previous generation. Well, the buck stops here. Duke Evers have actual songs, with melodies and hooks and caffeinated attitude. Plus, Josh and Kyle are pretty punchy live. Isn't that what you're here for? JASON JOSEPHES

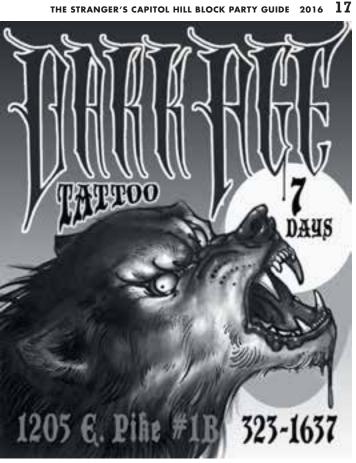
ECHOLARKS

(Fri, Neumos, 5:45 pm) Power poppers Echolarks lunged into recent existence with a punch of dreamy indie gaze aspirations, but landed somewhere in the tundra of k.d. lang casually listening to a Spotify indie rock playlist.

* EMANCIPATOR

(Fri, Main Stage, 6:30 pm)

Portland producer Emancipator creates middling, orchestral, down-tempo electronic music that seems tailor-made for TV movies



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(do they still make those?). His tracks skew predominantly melancholy and blandly funky, like a smooth-jazz version of Thievery Corporation. DAVE SEGAL

ERIE

(Sat, Neumos, 2 pm) Erie (like the lake, not the prickling terror sensation) is an electro-rock trio bicoastally swapping custody between Seattle and New York. Dark vocals lend some gravitas to a lilting twilight synth base.

FOG FATHER

(Sun, Neumos, 2:15 pm) Fog Father take their toy keyboards and turn them into adult instruments with a bizarro world pop muzak appeal.

GOLDLINK

(Sun, Main Stage, 6:30 pm)

Scrappy Virginian Goldlink blends his rapping and production skills for a solid mix of future bounce deep slack-note feels, with plenty of juvenile fun yet hardcore work ethic that develops the more you listen to it.

GOOD CO.

(Sat, Vera Stage, 4 pm) Electroswing enthusiasts Good Co. expand 1920s vibes for a whole new crowd, taking the high energy of dance music environments to a whole other level with the addition of possible jitterbugging.

THE GOOD WIVES

(Sat, Barboza, 4:45 pm) Seattle indie rockers the Good Wives

have a thing for high-energy hooks, ever-present guitar riffs, and dive-bar-love-affair vibes.

★ GREAT FALLS

(Fri, Cha Cha Lounge, 9:45 pm)

A less creative person might call Seattle's Great Falls a "power trio." But what specific power would that be referring to? The power of amplification, maybe. Great Falls certainly like their grinding noise rock loud. The power of evil is another option. Listening to them might make one feel inclined to do something naughty: stay out too late, drink too much, commit some light arson. Let's settle on the power of musicianship and attitude. Led by scene stalwart Demian Johnston, with Shane Mehling on bass and Phil Petrocelli on drums, Great Falls sound like a very consternated office manager exorcising all of his or her personal demons at once through a megaphone. JOSEPH SCHAFER

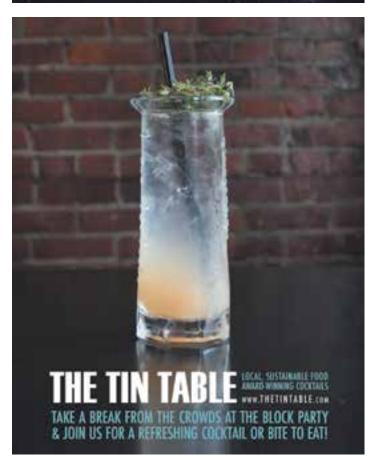
GREAT GOOD FINE OK

(Sat, Vera Stage, 8:30 pm) Fluttering electronic duo Great Good Fine Ok bring the John Hughes soundtrack vibes, replete with summery beat crashes and shiny youthful packaging.

★ GRIZZLED MIGHTY

(Sat, Neumos, 9 pm) Seattle duo the Grizzled Mighty have one of those self-descriptive names that show a blunt confidence in what they're doing: robust blues rock without an iota of irony. DAVE SEGAL









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* HEAD WOUND CITY

(Fri, Vera Stage, 9:20 pm) In 2005, Seattle's Blood Brothers were continuing their upward trajectory with nihilistic glam. The Locust were depending less on punk tonalities and leaning heavily on analog-synth experimentalism. And Yeah Yeah Yeahs' pop ballad "Maps" was still so ubiquitous, you might hear it playing in the background at your pharmacy. The short-lived (but recently reunited) supergroup Head Wound City could've easily been a potpourri of the aforementioned bands' non-punk musical interests of the time. Such a combination would have been interesting. though probably unlistenable. Instead, Head Wound City was a wild, petulant return to form, as if the members wanted another chance to beat their instruments bloody in a hardcore band. It wasn't the most adventurous side project, but they raged just as hard as the early classics in their

HEAVY PETTING

main gigs. BRIAN COOK

(Fri, Cha Cha Lounge, 5:45 pm) This trio should impress those seeking smart instrumental rock. Their expansive and

powerful style flirts with lush and looming post-metal atmospheres. BRITTNIE FULLER

INFFRNO

(Sat, Barboza, 10 pm) Inferno is a recurring dance night at Barboza, with rotating DJs playing the latest in hiphop and fusion genres, like moombahton.

INTO VIOLENCE

(Fri, Cha Cha Lounge, 7:45 pm) Hardcore thrashers (and Seattle supergroup) Into Violence are here to shred, rip, and spit their way across the Cha Cha stage (and into your hearts).

★ ISKA DHAAF

(Fri, Vera Stage, 6 pm) Seattle sometimes does things that aren't so smart, but one thing it does exceedingly well is produce razor-sharp, intelligent bands. Iska Dhaaf (which, despite a move to NYC, will always be a Seattle group) make complex, subtle melodies, lusty rhythms, and lyrics sometimes inspired by Sufi poetry. KELLY O

★ ISRAEL NASH

(Sat, Main Stage, 3:30 pm)

The title cut from Israel Nash's Rain Plans is a seven-minute sigh







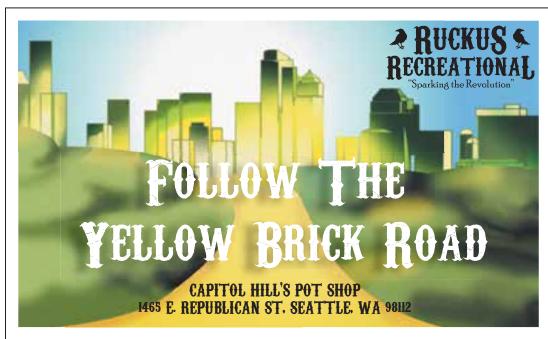


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that perfectly combines the sad psychedelia of Dark Side-era Pink Floyd and the grim cries of Neil Young. But to call it a downer would be a mistake. It's forlorn and simmering, the latter adjective being a great way to describe Nash's overall sound. The Missouri-born singersongwriter also dials it back with bright harmony-laden cuts that glisten and glow. JASON **JOSEPHES**

JAMIE AARON AUX

(Sun, Barboza, 3:45 pm) Jamie Aaron Aux's number one regret from 2014 is also pretty reminiscent of her musical attitude: "I regret the office-dazed lunchtime stroll when I walked right past Krist Novoselic on Third and Pike and did not honor my teenage Nirvana obsession by stopping to meet him. He was wearing a bowler hat with legendary confidence."

JET

(Fri, Barboza, 10:30 pm; Fri, Neumos, 12:45 am; Sat, Neumos, 11 pm) Barboza's weekly dance party with rotating special guest DJs expands outward for CHBP.

J GRGRY

(Sun, Barboza, 6:45 pm) Pulling influences from the coastal isolation of being immersed in the PNW for years, Joe Gregory uses his singer-songwriter title for keeps by releasing some real dark and heavy pop tracks.

★ JOY FORMIDABLE

(Sun, Main Stage, 5:15 pm) For those who find the xx too reserved to compel full engagement, the Joy Formidable are here to fill your guitar-based art-pop hole with an impressive droney racket. DAVID SCHMADER

***** JUSMONI

(Sat, Barboza, 6:45 pm) JusMoni's artfully coquettish delivery creamily curls around WD4D's disjointed funk beats and luxuriantly distorted textures. You could call it D'Angelo-fi, but then

DON'T MISS THIS BAND



ABSOLUTE MONARCHS

Sun, Cha Cha Lounge, 8:45 pm

you might get laughed out of the room. However, I think there's a definite Voodoo quality to this music. DAVE SEGAL

LAURA GIBSON

(Sun, Vera Stage, 6:10 pm)

Portlander Laura Gibson imbues visions of the dew-soaked riverbanks and winding bridges of her hometown with tender acoustic renditions of neo-folk heartbreak.

★ LISA PRANK

(Sat, Cha Cha Lounge, 3:45 pm) Experimental pop punk angel Lisa Prank brings dreamy rom-com meets Jimmy Eat World vibes into a low-key and lo-fi reality.

MANATEE COMMUNE

(Sun, Neumos, 9 pm) My

heart was crushed to learn that there are zero actual manatees involved in Manatee Commune and, further, that it's not any kind of commune! Its just one guy! Named Grant L'Kayl Eadie (pretty cool name, actually). However, setting aside that instant bias, I was instantly swept up by Manatee Commune's oneiric tunes. They stop just short of ambient, with subtle beats gently guiding gorgeously kaleidoscopic soundscapes. This could in fact be music for manatees, or any other

peaceful and huggable creature of nature and mystery. KATIE ALLISON

MERSO

(Fri, Cha Cha Lounge, 6:45 pm) Merso used to be known as Leatherdaddy but, thankfully, that's not their only good trait; they also make solid, high-energy stoner sludge for the spirits of dead heshers.

MILD HIGH CLUB

(Fri, Vera Stage, 7 pm) On "Windowpane" b/w "Weeping Willow," Mild High Club's debut Stones Throw single, there's a woozy, harpsichordheavy, paisley-psych vibe with groovy rhythms under distorted Ween-does-the-Beatles vocal treatments. It's not totally out-there musically, but with elements of library music, some occasional Clapton-esque guitar, and John Maus-like simplicity, there's a lot to be said about his enjoyable full-length. Much like Gary Wilson in the early '00s, Mild High Club was the thinking person's WTF of last year. TRAVIS RITTER

MIRROR FERRARI

(Fri, Barboza, 9:30 pm) Mirror Ferrari aim for lofted spaces with dark, drug-laced, dreamgazey power pop that wouldn't be

completely out of place in a Nicholas Winding Refn film.

(Fri, Main Stage, 7:45 pm)

A Danish electronic-pop diva/ producer who released a debut album, No Mythologies to Follow, full of youthful brio, instantly catchy synth melodies, and assertive coquettishness. **Imagine a Scandinavian Grimes** and you're close to grasping what's going on here. It's safe to assume MØ is massively popular with the 16 to 24 demographic. I'm not saying you have to be in that age range to enjoy her slick, slinky, sugary pop, but it probably helps. DAVE SEGAL

***** MOMMY LONG LEGS

(Sat, Cha Cha Lounge, 4:45

pm) Brat-punk, in the most endearing sense, is probably the best way to describe one of Mommy Long Legs' newest songs, "Assholes." The gleeful lyrics: "You can take your money and put it in your asshole! / You can take your condo and put it in your bungalow!" Like so many bands, they can't help but be concerned with Seattle's changing economy, and their songs become mini-anthems of anticlassism. Their feminist super-chants are cleverly veiled inside songs like "Weird Girl," "Haunted Housewives," and "Catcallers." KELLY O

MOON DIAL

(Sat, Barboza, 7:45 pm) The musings of Jonathan Atkins flow into a melodic state known as Moon Dial, once described by Emily Nokes as "a laid-back, indie journal-pop kind of band."

***** NAIL POLISH

(Fri, Neumos, 7 pm) Seattle's Nail Polish keep No Wave alive and scratching with sub-twominute songs that exhilarate and exhaust you in equal measure. Scathing social commentary bubbling atop caustic sonics is a foolproof formula for maximal stimulation. DAVE SEGAL





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★ NAVVI

(Sun, Neumos, 8 pm) Seattle's in the midst of an electronic-pop renaissance, and NAVVI represent one of its more accomplished practitioners, NAVVI (Kristin Henry and Brad Boettger) craft elegant, down-tempo tunes that are shrouded in a maroon synthesizer mist and peppered with crisp, staccato beats. Henry sings with an icy, alluring delicateness, and there's something of FKA twigs' methodical beauty happening in NAVVI's music. DAVE SEGAL

★ NU ERA

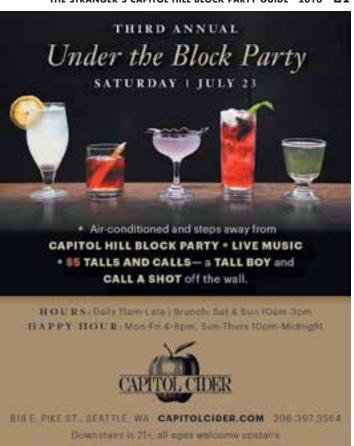
(Sun, Neumos, 6:30 pm) As far as local rap crews go, Nu Era's certainly put in the work. The foursome have crafted a diverse and high-definition sonic palette for their tales of low-key scheming, lyrical prowess, and bittersweet reminiscences, KYLE **FLECK**

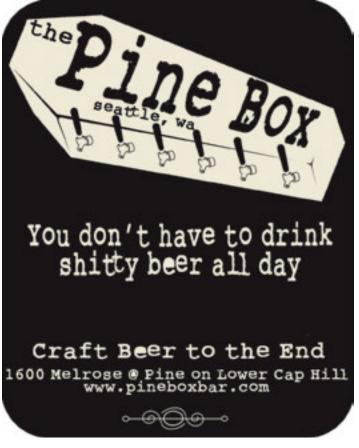
★ ODESZA

(Sat, Main Stage, 10:30 pm) Somewhere between the release of Odesza's 2012 debut Summer's Gone and now, the local electronic duo became globally recognized, arena-sized headliners. Their ascent has been made possible by their glossy, billboardsized beats, squeaky vocal samples, and predictable-enough bass kicks that provide an easily accessed head-nod zone for their fairly massive, blissed-out festival crowds. TODD HAMM

OH PEP!

(Sun, Vera Stage, 4 pm) Sweet acoustic duo Oh Pep! take the layered vocal talent of bands like First Aid Kit and infuse such a base with traditional jazz and classical backgrounds that lend themselves to a new internationalized folk sound.







DON'T MISS THIS BAND PORTER RAY Sat, Main Stage, 2:15 pm

ON AN ON

(Sat, Vera Stage, 7:15 pm)

On An On creates experimental pop sounds without a plan, and it shows. At times dysfunctional and aimless, their music has the ability to swing back around to tinkling earnestness.

PALE NOISE

(Fri, Barboza, 4:30 pm) Spencer Kelley pulls away from previous projects Wallpaper and Basemint to bring us Pale Noise, an earnestly pop-hook-laden twist to standard blues-rock for '70s Anglophiles.

PHOEBE RYAN

(Sun, Vera Stage, 7:30 pm) Recent LA transplant Phoebe Ryan is like the Tiffany of the Tumblr generation, riddled with neupop references, clever enough to latch onto digitalized vaporwave creations, yet still sweet and representative of all expanding teenage hearts.

★ PILLAR POINT

(Fri, Vera Stage, 5 pm) Get ready for some Dark. Indie. Dream. Pop. Y'all. Pillar Point are running around with Marble Mouth, the band's second from Polyvinyl. Scott Reitherman (former frontman of Throw Me the Statue) recorded the album

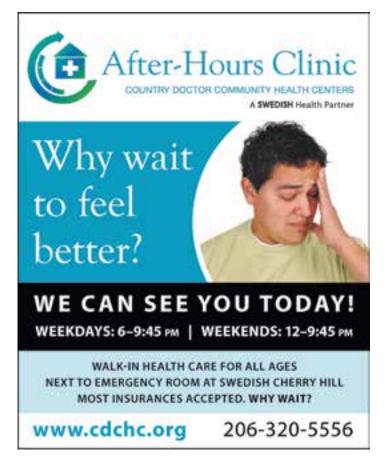
in Athens, Georgia, under the influence of Kevin Barnes (of Montreal mastermind). You can tell. It's darker and sweatier than their self-titled debut, and Reitherman has traded his signature smoky-casual falsetto for an array of deeper throwback tones. Instead of being indie-lonesome about lost love and gray days, he's dance-party-lonesome about lost love and gray days. It's great. **RICH SMITH**

★ PORTER RAY

(Sat, Main Stage, 2:15 pm)

Once dubbed "the golden child" by Shabazz Palaces' Ishmael Butler, the kid Porter Ray Sullivan is grown, and, as a matter of fact, has been older in spirit than his youthful face and shimmering soprano have let on all along. The late-20s Seattle MC compounds nocturnal ruminations on past traumas and altered toasts to the high life's seductive mirage. "MLK, Rainier, shit just ain't the same here/I fantasize of foreign flights, foreign women snortin' white," he raps on "Bless Me"—"may all my pain be champagne." Ray has a lot to say, and a million ways to say it, and each verse he writes only lifts him toward the heights he dreams of. **TODD HAMM**









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★ PRISM TATS

(Sat, Vera Stage, 2 pm) Prism Tats is the delightfully lo-fi solo project of ex-Koko and the Sweetmeats frontman G. Vandercrimp (whose name may sound like an English oil tycoon, but he's actually a Seattleite by way of South Africa and probably not a billionaire yet). Prism Tats' first batch of songs was fuzzy and catchy, featuring Vandercrimp's sweet singing voice floating over layers of reverb. The music's less bluesy than Koko's, and I think the more minimal sound suits my ear better and seems more... intimate. EMILY NOKES

***** PURE BATHING CULTURE

(Sat, Vera Stage, 9:45 pm) Pure Bathing Culture's "Pendulum" is one of the most elegant pop compositions I've heard in recent years. It's like '70s FM radio clockwork: the subtly complex bass line bobbing beneath waves of feather-light electric guitar, with the sort of so-simple-it's-perfect drum machine beat keeping the whole thing yacht-rocking ever forward. But the part that elevates the song from merely pretty indie rock to melancholic summer anthem are the vocals by lead singer Sarah Versprille, whose ethereal voice hovers over the music with an eerie grace. KYLE FLECK

THE RAMBLIN' YEARS

(Sun, Neumos, 5:15

pm) Country-fried Americanalaced rock 'n' roll band and Seattle U alumni the Ramblin' Years are here with their take on good old-fashioned twang.

* SÁNGO

(Fri, Main Stage, 5:15 pm)

Local producer Sango has been rising in the ranks for years, now playing a well-deserved set on the main stage, featuring recently lauded tracks in partnership with Dave B and SBZRKT.

SASHAY

(Sun, Cha Cha Lounge, 5:45 pm) Sweat your entire life away thrashing to the beauty pageant

DON'T MISS THIS BAND



STEAL SHIT DO DRUGS

Sat, Cha Cha Lounge, 6:45 pm

INVISIBLE HOUR

punks of Sashay, who perform with the intention to bankrupt you of all your identities but the most debased at your core.

* SASSYBLACK

(Sun, Vera Stage, 5 pm)

SassyBlack is one half of the nowdefunct galactic powerhouse that was THEESatisfaction, and she dropped her solo album this past May. Prepare your brain for a deep submergence in gorgeous Afrofuturistic soul and the heart of one of the most talented musicians in Seattle right now.

SCOTT YODER

(Sat, Barboza, 8:45 pm) Former lead singer and guitarist of the Pharmacy, Scott Yoder has recently returned to Seattle (from months of touring in Europe) to expand and showcase the spit-shined and hard-won balladeering of his impassioned solo

SCREENS

(Sat, Barboza, 5:45 pm) West Seattle indie electro kids Screens use their home field advantage to release some gently groovy sub-modernist pop tracks.

SEBASTIAN AND THE DEEP BLUE

(Fri, Neumos, 4:30 pm) Several recent NW vogues intersect in this musically ambitious neuftet: the thing where there are tons of people in the band, including string and horn sections, and the thing where the musical influences intermingle to include skoshes of R&B, funk, and, according to them, "Afropop," along with the thing where you get the vague sense they might have just stepped out of a church. Or maybe it only sounds like that because they can actually play. Which they definitely can. The arrangements are impressive, and the songs really move. It should be interesting to see how their energetic "chamber pop" (again, their words) translates to the CHBP throng. SEAN NELSON

SEGO

(Sat, Neumos, 7:45 pm) Utah

art punks Sego, taking their name (I'm assuming) from their state flower (the beautiful sego lily, you're welcome for the free trivia), establish a baseline from which to make art without being highbrow and extrapolate punk without safety-pinning your lip. It's fairly convincing as Imposter Syndrome goes, or as convincing as a homemade keytar and drums duo can be. KIM SELLING

SGF

(Sun, Barboza, 2:45 pm) Local electro-poppers SGF (Sister Girlfriend) fuse sounds from Seattle and Minneapolis, with a growing understanding of funk fusion and beat experimentation.

SPG & THE VICES

(Sun, Barboza, 8 pm) SPG (Stefan Paul George, natch) performs indie rock with all his Vices, laying out a very early '00s Dispatch vibe with some backcountry regret at its foundation.

THE SPIDER FERNS

(Sun, Neumos, 4:15 pm) The











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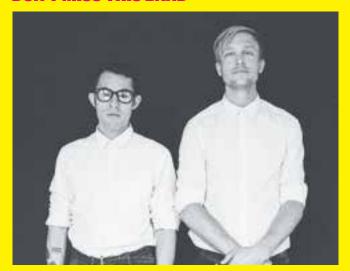






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ISKA DHAAF

Fri, Vera Stage, 6 pm

Spider Ferns are an electronic trip-rock duo seemingly guite dedicated to the ivy-covered-barn-conversionemanating-spooky-forest-vibesin-the-closing-dusk aesthetic.

STALLION

(Sun, Cha Cha Lounge, 2:45 pm) Featuring members of SSDD and Pony Time, Stallion are an energetic Seattle supergroup of overfilled Lycra-pant excess with power rock and Randy Savage personality aspirations.

★ STEAL SHIT DO DRUGS

(Sat, Cha Cha Lounge, 6:45 pm) It takes guts and smarts to make punk rock sound vital in 2016. On their debut EP, First Comes Money, the wild bucks in Steal Shit Do Drugs found a way to do just that, harnessing the libidinous whirlwind of Fun House-era Stooges, whoop-ass elements from Pussy Galore circa Right Now!, and channeling Flipper in Generic mode. SSDD are Seattle's whirlwind arsonists of rock decorum. DAVE SEGAL

★ STRFKR

(Sun, Main Stage, 8 pm) Portland's STRFKR avoided

becoming flash-in-the-pan indie stars and survived a brief namechange dispute by releasing solid, shimmering electro-pop albums Reptilians in 2011 and Miracle Mile in 2013, cementing their status as heavyweights of the Greater Northwest's music climate. In a live setting, their synth/bass-heavy feel-good jams take on an even more partyfriendly, everybody-get-down identity. There simply aren't many other bands from the area better suited to providing a soundtrack for a mass of drunken revelers dancing their respective asses off than these guys. MIKE RAMOS

SUNDOG

(Fri, Barboza, 7:30 pm) Sundog are undeniably consistent, in that they always seem to crank out solid roots and blues-inflected rock for the discerning Fremont Solstice or Folklife attendee.

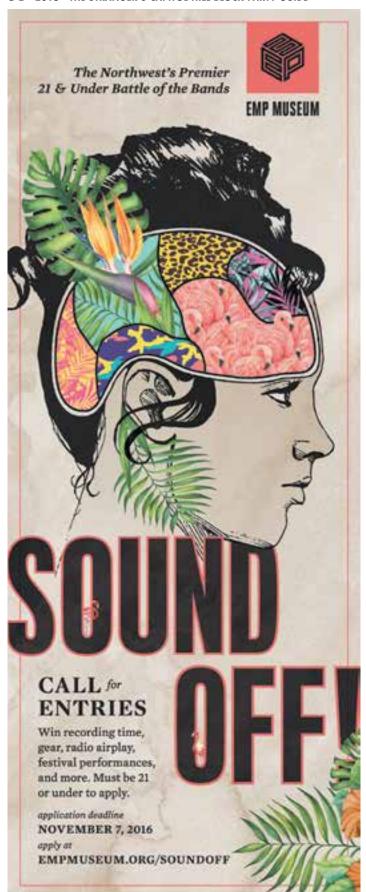
***** TANGERINE

(Sat, Vera Stage, 3 pm) Local indie-pop act Tangerine provide anti-gray solace with their beach-ready, '60s-inspired pop that interlaces sugary female vocals with twangy, bursting flickers of guitar and even more









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tambourine. Tangerine's songs instantly bloom inside your earspace and stay there. BRITTNIE FULLER

***** TAPE STACKS

(Sat, Barboza, 3:45 pm) You don't hear many Seattle bands that sound like Tape Stacks. Their 2015 EP Six Rooms seems to be informed by immersion in the gentler end of early-'80s British pop, like Everything but the Girl, the Gist, Weekend's La Varieté, Aztec Camera's High Land, Hard Rain, etc. When done poorly, this kind of fey songwriting can irritate the hell out of you. But when done well, as Tape Stacks do, it charms the heaven out of you. Guitarist/vocalist Kara McPhillips's winsome, throaty vocals and the group's intimate, cheerfully bookish melodies are the antithesis of machismo-heavy rock, but if you like airy tunefulness and a little hushed majesty (see "Thunder Room"), Tape Stacks will make your cardigandraped torso shudder with muted excitement. DAVE SEGAL

TENNYSON

(Sun, Neumos, 11:30 pm) Upand-coming Canadian electronica duo Tennyson bring their for-real

sibling act to the Neumos stage.

★ THUNDERPUSSY

(Sat, Main Stage, 4:45 pm)

At their root, Thunderpussy are a driving rock and roll group whose jams land smartly this side of "bar band." Rockin' like they do alone would be fantastic, but they bring a dash of cheeky theater to their shows that makes for hella fun. MIKE NIPPER

★ TILSON XOXO

(Sat, Neumos, 4 pm) You probably know Tilson from his stint in '00s party-igniting hiphop ensemble Saturday Knights. They were poised to blow up Beastie Boys-style, but, sadly, that never happened. Around 2012, Tilson resurfaced as a singer/rapper backed by some funky rocker types (drummer Aaron Benson and guitarist Thomas Hunter, both formerly of Wild Orchid Children; Hunter has moved to LA, so we'll see who has taken his place). Tilson XOXO's music isn't as boisterous as the Knights', but it does tap a more thoughtful vein of wise, loverman R&B and positive, observational rap. Priceless bonus: Tilson also makes his own brand of ginger ale. DAVE SEGAL











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TOURIST

(Sat, Main Stage, 7:30 pm)

Producer William Phillips uses his moniker, Tourist, as an excuse to jump from genre to genre—garage, electronica, and darker pop sensibilities included—and take little inspirations from each to create a more expansive sound with all.

***** ULTIMATE PAINTING

(Sat, Vera Stage, 5 pm) So you're one of those people who reflexively dismiss all indie rock as corny? I get it. At least 88 percent of it is hopelessly soulless and pallid, much more about enervation than innovation. But there are exceptions. Barely perceptible nuances separate the must-listens from the ignorables, and sometimes it's hard to articulate what distinguishes the former from the latter. Ultimate Painting belong to the minority of indie-rock bands you'd be wise to allow into your precious headspace. Their self-titled 2014 album lightly reveals the duo's appreciation of the third Velvet Underground album and its many disciples. The chiming guitar and mellow, affecting white-guy vocals are strong with this group. Ultimate Painting get by on artful understatement and tuneful songs that move you with a few gentle gestures. The 2015 follow-up, Green Lanes, offers clearer production while keeping the chime and jangle and the Teenage Fanclub-soft singing. Post-John Cale VU vibes still reign and the nonchalantly rollicking songwriting compels repeat listens. Corniness skillfully eluded. **DAVE SEGAL**

* VHS

(Sun, Barboza, 5:45 pm) The frenetic punk of VHS (Violent Human System) feels like a shot of cold brew straight to my brain—it thrashes and teems with nervous energy and some seriously manic Jay Reatard vibes. And like downing a little too much coffee, the killer

DON'T MISS THIS BAND



Fri, Vera Stage, 9:20 pm

guitar hooks and wild, reverbed howls have got me feeling slightly anxious in the best possible way and ready to rage. **ROBIN EDWARDS**

★ WAMPIRE

(Sun, Neumos, 10 pm) Freshfaced Northwesterners Wampire (from Portland) play that naivemelodied, chill-vibed electronic pop that our nation's youth casually love with all of their hearts. It's positively adorbs, as the kids say. DAVE SEGAL

★ WAND

(Sat, Vera Stage, 11 pm)

Much like the narwhal carried mythical significance for medieval Europeans (and had lasting influence well past Jules Verne's 1870 maritime novel 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea), the psych-garage of Wand carries a magical and otherworldly presence with it. Frontman Cory Thomas Hanson's haunting vocals and voluminous guitar chords take turns swallowing one another, and the listener is just along for the ride. "We just play all the songs really loud and bring a lot of amplifiers on tour so it's inescapably loud, and you can hear the music in a totally different way," Hanson once

said in a interview. Expect—nav. demand—a portal to the netherworld, GRANT BRISSEY

* WASHED OUT

(Fri, Main Stage, 10:45 pm)

Washed Out's endless, shimmering synth is like taking an Ambien at noon, in the summer, and then drifting down to the beach with a cooler of peach mimosas. You lie on the sand, feeling vaguely buzzed, but mostly drowsy and disoriented as layers and layers of warm dance pop wash over you. In between dehydrated naps, a blurry voice assures you: "It feels all right" and "You're far away"—at least you think that's what he's saying. A couple hours or days later, you wake up draped in seaweed and sunburned, FMILY NOKES

WESTERN WAR

(Fri, Barboza, 8:30 pm) Formerly known as Shapes in Space, NYC jammers Western War bring the raw surging party rock that fans of White Stripes or Black Keys will want to headbang or arm-wrestle to.

★ WILD POWWERS

(Fri, Neumos, 9:30 pm) This Seattle trio commingle nuanced grunge and psych-rock

elements in songs that shimmy their way into your memory with breezy ease. The group's melodic swagger is bolstered by the dulcet vocals of guitarist Lara Hilgemann and drummer Lupe Flores (one of the city's best and busiest behind the kit), as their voices twine in lilting beams of aural sunshine. Their brash and beautiful 2016 album Hugs and Kisses and Other Things proves that Wild Powwers are ready to ascend to a higher level in the 206's musical ecosystem. DAVE SEGAL

WOLFGANG FUCK

(Sun, Cha Cha Lounge, 3:45 pm) I once saw Wolfgang Fuck play a show at the Kraken with a band called Meat Wave. The Facebook event is the only online proof, other than the Block Party website, that I can find of this band existing. The description for Wolfgang Fuck on the event page simply says: "Werewolf fronted punk," which sounds like all you could want in the red light of the Cha Cha basement-womb vortex. **EMILY NOKES**

WOODS

(Sat, Vera Stage, 6 pm)

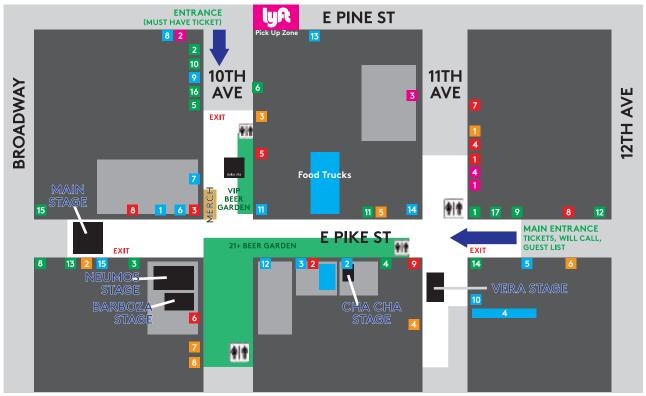
Woods' stretch of pastoral pop and psych-folk approach to guitar rock is perfect for this encroaching summertime, as frontman Jeremy Earl seems to have an undeniably effervescent quality no matter the volume.

★ ZOOLAB X KING SNAKE

(Fri, Neumos, 11:15 pm)

Zoolab (Seattle producer Terence Ankeny) is part of Seattle's recent wave of young producers working in the hazy realm where hiphop entwines with nightbus, that vaporous, downcast strain of bass music birthed from Burial's fertile imagination. Zoolab's music makes you nod your head while befogging it with gray clouds of synth, although ebullient rays sometimes shoot through the mist. DAVE SEGAL

Capitol Hill Block Party 2016 Map



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 9 NO PARKING ON PIKE
- 10 NUBE GREEN
- **11** OUT OF THE CLOSET
- 12 POST OPTIONS
- 13 RETAIL THERAPY
- **14 RETROFIT HOME**
- 15 SHELL STATION
- 16 TOTOKAELO
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